

EMDAC MINUTES – January 23, 2001 – San Diego

Board members present: Jim Andrews, Joe Barger, Jeff Grange, Allen Morini, Mel Ochs, Karl Sporer

Other members present: Jay Goldman, Bruce Haynes, Bill Koenig, Humberto Ochoa, Jim Pointer, Hal Renollet, Conrad Salinas, Angelo Salvucci, Sam Stratton, Tim Sturgill, Bill Teufel

Guests present: Richard McSherry, Mike Metro, Nancy Steiner, Miranda Swanson, Richard Watson, Ann Yoshinaga

APPROVAL OF 11-28-00 MINUTES

Action: Minutes of the November 28 meeting were approved with corrections (item 11 referred to fire medical directors instead of ambulance medical directors).

TREASURER'S REPORT – MEL OCHS

Current balance is \$4790.04. Notices have gone out from Karl Sporer for 2001 dues.

CAL FIRE CHIEFS REPORT – MIKE METRO

Chief Metro presented information on an ongoing effort to develop EMS Accreditation of Fire Services. Among the points presented:

- CFAI (International Association of Fire Chiefs) model has been the one chosen as most compatible with fire services.
- The EMS portion the CFAI model was felt to be inadequate. LA County providers are in the process of developing a detailed EMS section.
- Accreditation is viewed as an alternative to contracting with EMS agencies as there have been difficulties in developing and signing contracts. More detail may be able to be developed with accreditation than contracts.
- Accreditation project would develop a baseline structure for fledgling fire agencies getting into EMS.
- Outcome-based performance criteria to be developed, which would be customized to the available resources of the fire service being evaluated for accreditation.
- Eventually will seek official endorsement of both state and local EMS agencies.

Discussion: Concern that creation of standards for accreditation review will be an arduous process. Current use of CAAS accreditation by ambulance services is not fully applicable to non-transport services. May be possible that accreditation developed could be applicable to ambulance services. Contracts may be effective in outlining requirements and can carry the “stick” of financial consequences, rather than just loss of accreditation. Chief Metro believes accreditation can be requirement of a contract and have much more detail than a contract.

Action: None (Information item only)

EMS AUTHORITY REPORT

Richard Watson, Interim Director, reported on the following:

- Public comment period for new CLIA regulations is open and will end February 5, 2001. He believes current version will be reasonable because of EMS exemptions. There still will be a requirement for a medical director's involvement.

Discussion: EMT-I's are not covered and therefore there will be concerns in Sierra and Imperial Counties. Medical directors may face liability concerns.

Action: Comment period ends February 5. Comments may be sent to regulation@dhs.ca.gov. Proposed regulations are available through Nancy Steiner.

- The EMSA website now contains paramedic licensure information, which includes current licensure period and current actions against licensure. It will not, at this time, list past actions, but will list temporary suspensions. It is undergoing final revisions and still is only available via password. When final, information will be open to the public. Richard McSherry demonstrated the new system.

Discussion: Recommendation that there be a “push” mechanism to inform LEMSA when actions are taken against paramedics who are accredited in that LEMSA. Per Nancy Steiner, local EMS agencies are required to report on current accreditation, but not all do so.

- Legislative activity has increased, including:
 - 1) Proposed legislation to allow EMT-I's to start IV's in Sierra County.

- 2) Draft CMA legislation (not currently formally presented, author is Dunn) to place ED's under EMSA/LEMSA jurisdiction with regard to ensuring essential emergency and trauma services. Funding also proposed for first responders providing initial stabilizing service. Local EMS commission proposal to be dropped from legislation.
- Vision – Governance subcommittee meeting today. CSAC and California League of Cities cosponsoring a study of EMS systems, the results of which will help determine direction on this in the vision process. It is hoped that vision process will be bringing many items to the EMS Commission in the near future.
 - Interfacility Transport task force will be meeting January 30 in Sacramento.

Action: Jay Goldman will be EMDAC representative, with Joe Barger as alternate.

- Assembly Health Committee hearing will be held Feb 13 on EMS, trauma issues. Chairwoman is Helen Thomson.
- Nancy Steiner asked if agencies had policies concerning treatment of partners while on duty. The majority of respondents did not have policies.

EMDAC MEETING SCHEDULE – 2001

Tuesday, March 27 – Sacramento

Friday, June 8 – Santa Clara (in conjunction with Cal-ACEP)

Tuesday, September 25 – Los Angeles

Tuesday, November 27 – San Francisco (may potentially change site to Oakland)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EMSC – Allen Morini

EMSC Conference is in second week of November. Trying to attract medical directors to conference. CME has been cost-prohibitive in the past.

EMS Commission – Angelo Salvucci

There will be discussion on speed bumps.

EMSAAC – No representative currently

EMSAAC conference is May 10-11 at Embassy Suites in La Jolla. Primary topic is ED capacity/diversion and funding.

Joint sessions with EMSAAC are tentatively planned for the March and September EMDAC meetings.

Action: Jim Andrews will ask if John Brown is interested as serving as liaison to EMSAAC.

Paramedic Task Force – Sam Stratton

There is an ongoing discussion about quality improvement integration statewide, including statewide indicators and data, exchange of data, and a statewide QI committee to coordinate statewide effort. Will be discussing comments on model disciplinary orders at next meeting.

EMT-I Task Force—Bruce Haynes

There has been difficulty in reconciling disagreements with regard to EMT certification by the state – state fire marshal and CHP want to continue to certify their EMT-I's. There is a fair amount of support to move EMT certification to state.

Scope of practice issues have not yet been presented. There are discussions about necessity for skills testing or allowing employers to do skill testing.

Action: Bruce will send out information to EMDAC members for comment since action on items likely to occur soon.

Legislative Committee – Bill Koenig

No report. Bill is requesting replacement on this committee. Leonard Inch previously was EMSAAC legislative committee chair but is no longer.

Action: No replacement named.

Cal-ACEP – Bill Koenig

Discussion on proposed CMA legislation, which had just been released as of day before. Document has been created by CMA/Cal-ACEP entitled, "California's Emergency Services – A System in Crisis." This includes information with regard to financial status of hospitals. The proposed legislation is not currently posted on the CMA website, cmanet.org. Per Bill Koenig, there isn't a strong link between ACEP board and EMDAC – Gary Tamkin is now on board, as is Ray Johnson.

Cal-ACEP lobbyist, Jim Randlett, is open to ideas about legislation. EMS committee at Cal-ACEP has not been functional for some time. Jim Andrews will put this on the server to ask for volunteers to work on this with Cal-ACEP and EMSAAC.

VISION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – Sam Stratton

Committee now looking at issue of consistency in certification and licensure/approval of training programs at local level vs. going to a statewide level. Sam is asking for replacement on committee. No volunteer surfaced.

Access – Mel Ochs

Last meeting was cancelled. Prior discussion about allowing a provider medical director to provide oversight of EMD programs. Per Nancy Steiner, police services do not want requirement for medical director oversight locally.

Data – Karl Sporer

Legislation has been crafted to deal with discoverability of QI proceedings in EMS by Bonnie Sinz. Not likely to be passed because of trial lawyer opposition. Ad hoc committee is developing database for statewide use. Karl will post data dictionary.

No reports or no meetings for other subcommittees.

FIRE SERVICE PROVIDER MEDICAL DIRECTOR MEETING – Joe Barger

Overview of EMSA, vision process, EMDAC, and EMDAC Scope committees were presented at this meeting, which was attended by several medical directors from southern California as well as Steve Tharratt and Joe Barger. Fire medical director job description not well developed and needs further discussion/description. Next meeting in March. Not currently scheduled. Ray Navarro of Beverly Hills FD is coordinating.

Action: Joe Barger will post meeting date when available on EMDAC server.

AIRWAY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT – Mel Ochs

Document discussed. Recommendation is that jet ventilation only be used for complete airway obstruction or when oral intubation, combitube, or BVM have all failed. No further action on document at this time.

NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY – Humberto Ochoa

Humberto asked for opinion concerning use of Quik-Trach. At November scope committee meeting, this item was felt to be potentially deleterious, based on size of trocar and pressure needed in order to pierce skin and cricothyroid membrane. Bill Teufel mentioned German paper (cadaver study) in which there was a very high incidence of posterior wall penetration of device.

Action: Bruce Haynes will draft a letter to all agencies stating as a general recommendation that use of needle cricothyrotomy should be reserved for cases in which there is complete airway obstruction or failure of non-invasive techniques (intubation, esophageal-tracheal airway, or BVM). Letter will also recommend that a traditional 10-gauge needle cricothyrotomy device is our recommendation and that use of a larger device is not advisable.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE ISSUE – NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY – Angelo Salvucci

Angelo is developing a web-based database for needle cricothyrotomy uses with a number of data points: county, year, quarter, patient age, gender, indication, airway management prior to cricothyrotomy, type of needle device used, successful placement, complications, and patient outcome (utilizing Utstein criteria). Fields would have drop-down menus.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE ISSUE – TRACHEOSTOMY REPLACEMENT – Joe Barger

Concern because PEPP teaching materials include replacement of tracheostomy, which has not been listed as part of scope of practice for paramedics. Per Sam Stratton, LA schools have taught for many years and PEPP materials were taken from LA training. Of those at meeting, LA, Orange, and Fresno-Kings-Madera had policies and procedures in place.

Action: Nancy Steiner will poll all LEMSAs about existence of policies concerning this.

ROUND TABLE

Mel Ochs – new LEMSAs director in San Diego. RSI study now has 200+ cases, trauma triage criteria changes were brought for information. Discussion ensued about lack of support in literature for validity of trauma triage with use of mechanism in absence of physiologic findings.

Hal Renollet – Nor-Cal EMS has new office. Sierra County problems already discussed.

Bruce Haynes – Cardiovascular center proposal, to use ECG to triage patients to invasive centers if they have anterior MI or cardiogenic shock and are under age 75, has been floated in Orange County but there is as of yet total silence from hospitals. Also looking at vascular surgery availability and possible field triage. Discussion that patients with typical cardiac symptoms and normal ECG unresponsive to basic care is another category that may need invasive centers. Imperial County – Junior College did not pass paramedic program accreditation. The survey was very professional, a good survey instrument was used, and the survey very rigorous. Bruce has concerns whether the junior college will want to continue in the paramedic training business since the fix will likely be very expensive. Nancy Steiner stated that the accreditation group has not ultimately failed any program and has worked with them to remediate problem areas.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:30 pm